Your second request is that the Roman Catholics should be treated as a separate community for the public service. If what you mean is that they are to be shown separately this is already being done. That is what I find in the classification of appointments made of communities.

185. Public service.

MR. K. C. EAPEN (*Member, Trading Classes, Trivandrum*) said that the Assembly was just closing a journey round "tranquil Travancore." They had a pleasant journey all together ; there was no difference at all among them ; it was complete harmony everywhere. But on one thing they differed. When they came to the loaves and fishes of Government appointments, they could not agree. Indeed the disagreement was of the most violent kind. It was on this thorny question that the member wanted to make a few observations.

All that he could do was to exhort his brothers, and even his sisters who had of late come up to assert their rights, to be a little more patient and a little more self-sacrificing. In a joint family, the earnings and the profits made by the grown-up members were divided among the whole family. Similarly, in this family of the State all concessions should be given to the younger and the weaker members —Puduval lands, mid-day meals, fee concessions all. But the management of the family, if it should prosper, should be in the hands of competent men. Many people forgot this fundamental point. Whenever a vacancy occurred in any department they raised the cry of "my community at any cost." They gave the go by to the demands of co-operation. Some would say that appointments should be distributed according to the numerical strength of the communities. Others would say that the guiding factor should be educational advancement. Each had his own axe to grind when he advanced this or that theory. The member did not want to join this struggle and to further complicate the issue.

He only wanted to bring into prominence certain other aspects of the question. He was voicing the feelings of that section of the public, that quiet section which only wanted to enjoy their peace and happiness undisturbed. All that they cared for was the efficiency of the public service. They would not mind even a foreigner being appointed if he could give them justice. At the same time the member did not want to be hard to the backward communities. He could sympathise with their disabilities. Considering all aspects, he could think of two solutions, one institution of competitive examinations and the other appointment of a staff selection board. Competitive examinations should determine the selection from among the advanced communities, and the staff selection board should make the selections from among the backward communities. Even with regard to competitive examinations, difficulties were not entirely absent. There were some people, who whether examiners or heads of departments, could not get rid of the mentality of hating certain communities. It was dangerous to leave the examinations in the hands of such people.

In regard to the appointment of women in the public service, the member said it was only legitimate that they should get a fair share in the administration, seeing that Government had given them all the opportunities for qualifying themselves for the purpose. Not only that, women had already proved their capacity for public service by their successful work on several public bodies.

In conclusion, the member made a few remarks about the working of the Police, Judicial and Medical Departments. In regard to the Police Department, his complaint was that the present Commissioner reposed too much confidence in his subordinates and always went by their recommendations. Of the Judicial Department, the member did not want to say much because some of the previous speakers had already dealt with it. As regards the Medical Department, the member pressed for more sympathy on the part of the doctors towards the patients. It was not merely M. B. and M. D. qualifications that should count in making appointments. The chief criterion should be the possession of the required qualities of mind by the candidates. The Dewan should also make inspections of hospitals and dispensaries and examine the work of the doctors.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Eapen, those were wise and weighty words that you uttered on the subject of recruitment and, like all people who learn from the past and think of the future, you advocate that communal representation should be done away with entirely and that some other form of recruitment should be substituted. You have considered the question of a staff selection board. You point out the difficulties in the way. I gather you do not hold it as a practicable and a workable expedient. You advocate competitive examinations supplemented by some agency for making selections from the backward classes. How far that arrangement will be welcomed in the country is a doubtful matter. All that we can do at present is to await the development of that spirit of fairness and fair play of which I see indications already in the various departments. I shall consider your suggestion in all seriousness.

I do not know that there is so much avarice and lack of sympathy as you indicate in the Medical Department. I know of a few instances that came to my notice where medical officers have shown lack of sympathy, a tendency to pay more attention to the well-to-do than to the poor. Every such officer knows what will overtake him if he persists in that course and I hope before long you will find a general improvement.

186. Public service.

MR. K. N. MADHAVA KARTA (*Member, Shertallai taluk, Group II*) said that he was glad to find in the Dewan's address the announcement about the entertainment of women in some departments. The policy announced was a good one. But it was necessary to go the whole hog with it and to appoint women in all departments including probably even the Police Department. The member had received a mandate from some women to represent their cause before the Assembly and it was in accordance with this mandate that he was speaking on the subject.

Secondly, he referred to the Judicial Department and said that the public were for many reasons losing their faith in the highest judicial tribunal of the State. There was no consistency in the judgments of that tribunal. Principles and views changed almost from day to day. The disposal of suits was also very slow. The same lethargy existed in the lower courts. So far as these courts were concerned, promotions generally went by seniority. Efficiency and character were at a discount. In such a state of affairs judges and Munsiffs naturally became idle, and the public suffered.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Madhava Karta, I do not suppose you expect any reply from me on the subject of your representation in regard to the appointment of qualified women in all departments of the State. I feel that you have done your duty in making the representation.

Turning to the recruitment in the Judicial Department, the whole question is now under consideration and, I hope, before very long, to have revised rules upon the subject brought into force.

187. Reform of the administration.

MR. K. NARAYANA PANICKAR (*Member, Karthikapalli taluk*) said that the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly should be reconstituted on a statutory basis. Elections for the Assembly should be held once in three years. The franchise also should be lowered. In regard to the powers of the Assembly, the introduction, modification or abrogation of any law should be made only with its consent.

The member next dealt with the Agricultural Department and said that the department should devote better attention to the eradication of the cocoanut pests.

So far as the Revenue Department was concerned, the member proposed the enhancement of the pay of the pakuthi staff. In the matter of disposal of Sirkar lands, the member urged for the registry of these lands in the names of the poor and landless people in small blocks of 10 acres each.

The next subject dealt with by the member was the reform of the Education Department. The present system of education should be revised and the study of agriculture and industry should be made compulsory in all schools. The vernacular

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly